been taken by HPCL to ensure payment of due compensation to the affected persons, as per provisions of law. HPCL have, however, been advised to clarify the points raised by the representationist.

Steps taken to Reduce the Import of Petroleum Products

11J9. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps, short term and long term, to reduce imports of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to minimise the import of crude oil and petroleum products, measures arc being taken to increase the refining capacity in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Import and parallel marketing of Kerosene, LPG and LSHS in private sector has also been allowed so as to improve availability of these products and to contain the oil import bill.

Steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir, behaviour, development of new fields, additional developments of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Crude Oil Production

1200. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL.GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the crude oil production in MMT by ONGC and OIL in 1995-96, 1996-97 including share in joint venture production

(b) the total production in private and joint ventures (excluding ONGC and OIL share);

(c) the total investment by private investors in oil industry during last three years; and

(d) the production target in 1997-98 for ONGC and private/joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The crude oil production by ONGC OIL during 1995-96 and 1996-97 was under:-

(Figures in MMT)

	ONGC	OIL	Joint Venture
1995-96	31.635	2.882	ONGC OIL 0.247 .004
1996-97	28.671	2.87	0.521 .0047

(b) Total oil production from private/ JVCs (excluding ONGC and OIL share) was as under:-

Year Production 1995-96 0.399 MMT 1996-97 0.817 MMT

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The crude oil production target of ONGC and private/JVCs for 1997-98 is 27.733 MMT and 3.233 MMT respec tively.